

every constituent with a smile. She is a proactive person who actively seeks opportunities to improve her performance and the performance of the office as a whole. She is a loyal, hardworking and selfless person who always meets a challenge with a positive attitude. Sue has coordinated the Military Academy nominations for the students in my district since 2003. She has done an outstanding job recruiting community members to serve on the Academy Selection Committee, organizing outreach to local high school students and developing relationships with each of our great Military Academies in order to facilitate the nomination process. Sue truly makes a difference in the lives of those who have had the privilege of working with her.

Although Sue has an outstanding record of professional performance, she is most outstanding because of who she is. Sue is a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She has two children, Margaret Jean "Maggie" and John Perry, and three grandchildren. She and her husband have been happily married for eighteen years. Sue is a well-rounded individual who actively pursues her talents and interests. She is an accomplished athlete, an excellent cook, an avid hiker and a talent at many other hobbies. Throughout her life, Sue's warmth, kindness and zest for life have enabled her to nurture strong relationships with her family and friends. Sue is loved and respected by all who know her because of her wisdom, her compassion and her supportive nature.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Sue Lowes for her extraordinary commitment to our community, state and nation, and for achieving excellence in all aspects of her life. She has been a wonderful friend for nearly fourteen years and she is truly an admirable person. She will be greatly missed in my office, but I wish her the very best as she goes back to Texas to begin the next phase of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DAKOTA STEWART WEST

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in great pride and pleasure, to inform the House of a wonderful event that has taken place in my family.

On June 20, 2006, my stepdaughter Emily and her husband Allen West, of Nashville, Tennessee, gave birth to their first child, a daughter. I am proud to report that Dakota is a happy, healthy baby girl. Cynthia and I, along with Allen's parents George and Julie, are delighted with this joyful addition to our family. She reminds us again that, as Art Buchwald once said, "The best things in life aren't things."

Looking into the face of this beautiful new person causes me to marvel again at God's miracle of life and to celebrate Dakota's safe arrival. She also elicits from me the renewed responsibility that I, and we in Congress have, to see that she and her generation will live in freedom, in a safe and prosperous nation and world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all of our colleagues join me in wishing all the best to Dakota Stewart West.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, during consideration of H. Res. 877, the rule for consideration of the House report for H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2007, on June 20, 2006, I improperly referred to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. SABO of Minnesota. I would like the record to show that I meant to refer to the Ranking Member of the Department of Defense Appropriations Subcommittee as Mr. MURTHA of Pennsylvania.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise on this auspicious occasion to celebrate the 34th anniversary of Title IX—the landmark legislation to ensure equal access to sports opportunities for young men and women. At the outset, I commend and thank all of the men and women that have contributed to its success over the past 34 years—empowering women to make responsible decisions and to contribute positively to society.

Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary, I must express my concern over the Title IX loophole created by the Department of Education on March 17, 2005. This loophole undermines this important civil rights legislation. Rather than continuing the mandate on institutions to maintain equality in men's and women's sports, the change shifted the burden to female students to show their interest in and entitlement to participation opportunities, effectively allowing schools to justify disparities in treatment. This loophole—which was established without notice or opportunity for public comment—is having a devastating impact on women's sports.

Mr. Speaker, if the fabric of society is only as strong as the threads that hold it together, then surely the duty of government must be to reinforce those threads, not to pull them apart. Yet allowing colleges to gauge interest in women's sports based on a single e-mail survey does exactly that—it unravels the fabric. It sends the message to girls that the ability to play sports is somehow unnatural. No one questions a boy who wants to play soccer; no one asks him to fill out a survey. So why do girls have to jump over hurdles to enjoy the same activity? Hurdles must remain in track and field where they belong, not in civil rights legislation. That is exactly the battle Title IX was designed to end, and it did . . . until March 17, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in 1971, 1 in 27 high school girls participated in athletics. Now it's 1 in 3. The explosion in athletic opportunities open to young women has generated enormous interest. The ratings for the women's final at Wimbledon, the most watched women's sport-

ing event, are generally the same as the men's. In 1996, it was the U.S. women's soccer and basketball teams that captured Olympic gold. Interest follows opportunity, not vice versa.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to demonstrate our commitment to our Nation's young women. We know that playing sports improves self-esteem, teamwork skills, and psychological well-being. We know that 82 percent of executive businesswomen played organized sports after elementary school. What we don't know is why the current Administration, in light of overwhelming evidence touting the benefits of athletics, has made it easiest for colleges and high schools to shirk their responsibility to women.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I, along with fellow members of the House of Representatives, are working to protect Title IX. In addition to urging the President to withdraw the new rules, I am an original sponsor of House Resolution 735 expressing that these changes are inconsistent with longstanding Department policies and fundamental principles of equality. I will continue to fight to address these inequalities that threaten to reverse 34 years of progress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 26, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report. It was my pleasure to serve as a conferee on the Fiscal Year 2006 Coast Guard authorization bill.

I am a strong supporter of the Coast Guard men and women who valiantly serve our nation.

Through their hard work and dedication, 33,000 people were saved in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

This will not be the last time that we will turn to the Coast Guard for help.

Congress must provide the Coast Guard with the support it needs to perform its security and life-saving missions.

The Coast Guard's current assets are deteriorating quickly, and the Administration has clearly failed to realize that there is a problem.

The Administration's request for the Deepwater program, which will provide the Coast Guard with more modern equipment, was \$32 million less than last year.

Congress, recognizing the problem, authorized funds in this bill that will help accelerate the purchasing of Deepwater assets.

I had hoped that even more funds would be authorized for the Deepwater program. In the Homeland Security Committee's mark-up of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Ports Act, I supported an amendment offered by Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI) that would have provided enough funds to complete the Deepwater program in ten years rather than the current twenty years. I wish that provision had been accepted in this bill.

Nonetheless, the funding level in this bill is a good first step.